Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method to provide short messaging service (SMS) messages to a receiving party associated with a plurality of devices, the method comprising:

storing, at a server device, network addresses associated, respectively, with each of the plurality of devices;

receiving and storing, at [[the]] the server device and from the receiving party, information including:

data identifying one of the network addresses associated with a first preferred device, of the plurality of devices , and first characteristics of the first preferred device, including a first time period associated with the first preferred device, and

data identifying another of the network addresses associated with a second preferred device, of the plurality of devices, and second characteristics of the second preferred device, including a second time period associated with the second preferred device;

receiving, at the server device, a SMS message addressed to a first address, of the network addresses, the first address being associated with a first device of the plurality of devices;

identifying, by the server device, <u>a second address, of the network addresses, the second address being associated with</u> a second device<u>,</u> of the plurality of devices<u>,</u> ~~as the preferred device, instead of~~ <u>that differs from</u> the first device, <u>where identifying the second address includes:</u>

<u>selecting, as the second address, the one of the network addresses when the SMS message is received during the first time period, and</u>

<u>selecting, as the second address, the other of the network addresses when the SMS message is received during the second time period,</u>

~~to receive the SMS message based on the information stored by the receiving party at the server device,~~ where the second device is identified without sending the SMS message to the first device;

formatting, by the server device, the SMS message according to [[the]] characteristics of the ~~preferred~~ <u>second</u> device, <u>where the characteristics of the second device include the first characteristics when the one of the network addresses is selected as the second address, where the characteristics of the second device include the second characteristics when the other of the network addresses is selected as the second address,</u> ~~where formatting the SMS message includes determining, based on the characteristics whether the preferred device is to receive the SMS message as a textual message or an audio message~~; and

sending, by the server device, the formatted message to the ~~preferred~~ <u>second</u> device, where sending the formatted message includes sending the formatted message via a pathway that does not include the first device~~, where sending the formatted message includes sending, when the preferred device is to receive the SMS message as the audio message, the~~

~~formatted message as a voice message that the receiving party can access via the preferred~~

~~device, and where sending the formatted message includes sending, when the preferred device is~~

~~to receive the SMS message as the textual message, the formatted message as a SMS, e-mail, or~~

~~instant)~~ message.

2.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where:

the ~~preferred~~ second device comprises an SMS-compatible device,

formatting the SMS message includes formatting the message in an SMS format,

and

sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to the

SMS-capable device.

3.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where sending the formatted

message comprises sending the formatted message to an e-mail address that the receiving party

can access via the ~~preferred~~ second device.

4.   (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where sending the formatted

message comprises sending the formatted message to an instant messenger client that the

receiving party can run on the ~~preferred~~ second device.

5.   (canceled)

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where sending the formatted message comprises sending the formatted message to digital companion client software that the receiving party can run on the ~~preferred~~ second device.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, where sending the formatted message comprises:

determining when the ~~preferred~~ second device is available to receive the formatted message,

storing the formatted message in a database when the ~~preferred~~ second device is not available to receive the formatted message, and

recovering the stored formatted message when the ~~preferred~~ second device is available to receive the formatted message.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An apparatus to provide short message service (SMS) messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, the apparatus comprising:

a database to store information including:

~~identifying each device of~~ addresses for, respectively, the plurality of devices,

data identifying a first particular address, of the plurality of addresses, associated with a first preferred device, of the plurality of devices,

[[as]] data identifying a second particular address, of the plurality of

addresses, associated with a second preferred device, of the plurality of devices,

characteristics of the first preferred device, including a first time period

associated with the first preferred device, and

characteristics of the second preferred device, including a second time

period associated with the second preferred device;

a gateway server to receive a SMS message identifying a first address, of the

addresses, the first address being associated with a ~~second~~ first device of the plurality of devices;

and

a SMS server to:

implement a server function to identify ~~the preferred~~ a second address, of

the addresses, the first address being associated with a second device ~~instead of~~

~~the second device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the~~

~~SMS message, the preferred device being different than~~ that differs from the

~~second~~ first device, where the server function, when identifying the second

address is further to:

select, as the second address, the first particular address when the

SMS message is received during the first time period, and

select, as the second address, the second particular address when

the SMS message is received during the second time period, and

~~identifies~~ where the second ~~preferred~~ device is identified without sending the SMS message to the ~~second~~ first device,[[;]]

format the SMS message in accordance with [[the]] characteristics of the ~~preferred~~ second device, where the characteristics of the second device include the first characteristics when the first particular address is selected as the second address, where the characteristics of the second device include the second characteristics when the second particular address is selected as the second address, ~~where when formatting the SMS message, the SMS server is further to determine, based on the characteristics, whether the preferred device is to receive the SMS message as a textual message or an audio message~~, and

send the message to the ~~preferred~~ second device, where the SMS server, when sending the formatted message, is further to determine a pathway to the ~~preferred~~ second device that does not include the ~~second~~ first device~~, where, when sending the formatted message, the SMS server is further to:~~

~~send, when the preferred device is to receive the SMS message as the audio message, the formatted message as a voice message, and~~

~~send, when the preferred device is to receive the SMS message as the textual message, the formatted message as a SMS, e-mail, or instant message.~~

10.   (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, where the SMS server is further to store messages to a database when the ~~preferred~~ second device is not available to receive messages.

11.   (canceled)

12.   (currently amended) An apparatus to provide short message service (SMS) messages to a user associated with a plurality of devices, the apparatus comprising:

　　　　means for storing information identifying a first preferred device, of the plurality of devices, a second preferred device, of the plurality of devices, a first specification of the first preferred device, and a second specification of the second preferred device;

　　　　means for receiving a SMS message identifying one device of the plurality of devices;

　　　　means for selecting, as a [[the]] preferred device, one of the first preferred device or the second preferred device, instead of the identified one device, for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the preferred device being different than the identified one device, where the preferred device is identified without sending the SMS message to the identified one device, where the means for selecting the preferred device includes:

　　　　　　means for selecting, as the preferred device, the first preferred device when the SMS message is received during a first time period associated with the first preferred device, and

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means for selecting, as the preferred device, the second preferred device when the

SMS message is received during a second time period associated with the second

preferred device, the second time period differing from the first time period,

where a specification for the preferred device includes one of the first

specification when the first preferred device is selected as the preferred device or the

second specification when the second preferred device is selected as the preferred device;

and

means for sending the SMS message to the preferred device, the means for

sending the SMS message comprising:

means for formatting, based on the specification of the preferred device, the SMS

message in accordance with characteristics of the preferred device before sending the

SMS message to the preferred device, where the means for sending the SMS message

employs a pathway to the preferred device that does not include the identified one device,

where means for formatting the SMS message include:

means for determining, based on the characteristics, whether the preferred

device is to receive the SMS message as a textual message or an audio message,

means for sending, when the preferred device is to receive the SMS

message as the audio message, the formatted message as a voice message, and

send for sending, when the preferred device is to receive the SMS message

as the textual message, the formatted message as a SMS, e-mail, or instant

message.

13.   (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 12, where the means for sending the SMS message comprises means for storing messages to a database when the preferred device is not available to receive messages.

14-15. (canceled)

16.   (currently amended) A method, performed by a network routing device, the method comprising:

receiving a short message service (SMS) message including information identifying a first destination device;

identifying a second destination device instead of the first destination device for receiving the SMS message in response to receiving the SMS message, the second destination device being different than the first destination device, where the second destination device is identified without sending the SMS message to the first destination device, where identifying the second destination device includes:

selecting, as the second destination device, a first preferred device when the SMS message is received during a first time period associated with the first preferred device, and

selecting, as the second destination device, a second preferred device when the SMS message is received during a second time period associated with the second preferred device, the second time period differing from the first time period;

formatting the SMS message based on ~~stored~~ characteristics associated with the second

destination device, <u>where the</u> characteristics <u>for the</u> second destination device <u>include one of:</u>

<u>first characteristics associated with the first preferred device when the first</u>

<u>preferred device is selected as the second destination device, or</u>

<u>second characteristics associated with the second preferred device when the</u>

<u>second preferred device is selected as the second destination device</u>

~~where formatting the SMS message includes determining, based on the characteristics, whether~~

~~the second destination device is to receive the SMS message as a textual message or an audio~~

~~message~~; and

sending, via a pathway that does not include the first destination device, the formatted

SMS message to the second destination device~~, where sending the formatted message includes:~~

~~sending, when the second destination device is to receive the SMS message as the~~

~~audio message, the formatted message as a voice message, and~~

~~sending, when the preferred device is to receive the SMS message as the textual~~

~~message, the formatted message as a SMS, e-mail, or instant message~~.

17. (previously presented) The method of claim 16 where the first destination device

and the second destination device are associated with a receiving party, and

where the identifying includes:

identifying the second destination device based on a profile associated with

receiving party.

18.　　(new) The method of claim 1, where formatting the SMS message according to the characteristics of the second device includes:

converting the SMS message into a voice message that is accessible via the second device.

19.　　(new)　The apparatus of claim 9, where the SMS server, when formatting the SMS message in accordance with the characteristics of the second device, is further to:

convert the SMS message into a voice message that is accessible via the second device.

20.　　(new) The apparatus of claim 12, where the means for formatting the SMS message includes:

means for converting the SMS message into a voice message that is accessible via the preferred device.

21.　　(new) The method of claim 16, where formatting the SMS message based on characteristics associated with the second destination device further includes:

converting the SMS message into a voice message that is accessible via the second destination device.